

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

WELLS

CIVIL ACTION

V.

RAYMOURS FURNITURE COMPANY, INC.

NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) (x)
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. ()

12/3/16
ERAY ZAFAR
Date

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Plaintiff
Attorney for

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FAX Number

E-Mail Address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: C/o Kalikhman & Rayz, LLC 1051 County Line Rd., Suite "A" Huntingdon Valley, PA

Address of Defendant: 7248 Morgan Road Liverpool, New York 13090

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Eastern District of Pennsylvania
(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?

(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))

Yes No

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes No

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: _____ Judge _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes No

2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes No

3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes No

4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?

Yes No

CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts

2. FELA

2. Airplane Personal Injury

3. Jones Act-Personal Injury

3. Assault, Defamation

4. Antitrust

4. Marine Personal Injury

5. Patent

5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury

6. Labor-Management Relations

6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)

7. Civil Rights

7. Products Liability

8. Habeas Corpus

8. Products Liability — Asbestos

9. Securities Act(s) Cases

9. All other Diversity Cases

10. Social Security Review Cases

(Please specify)

11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify) 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check Appropriate Category)

I, Arkady "Eric" Rayz, Esq., counsel of record do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

☒ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 12/3/2016

Attorney-at-Law

87976

Attorney I.D.#

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 12/3/2016

Attorney-at-Law

87976

Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (6/08)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

ELIZABETH WELLS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, v. RAYMOURS FURNITURE COMPANY, INC. d/b/a RAYMOURS FURNITURE, Defendant.	Case No. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Jury Trial Demanded
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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Elizabeth Wells (“Plaintiff” or “Wells”), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Wells is an “individual with a disability” as that term is understood pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (the “ADA”), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations.

2. Plaintiff Wells has suffered from a long history of mobility-related impairments, which began with the removal of the cartilage in both knees that arose from a work-related injury in the 1980s. In 2001, she underwent double knee replacement. Despite this surgery, Plaintiff still has (i) limited mobility, (ii) trouble walking distances and up/down steep inclines, and (iii) trouble walking on uneven or unsecure surfaces (such as sand, gravel, soft dirt).

3. Plaintiff currently suffers from osteoarthritis and traumatic arthritis of the left ankle, which required surgery from which she is still recovering. To maintain her limited mobility, these problems require her to use a physician-prescribed walker or cane on a daily

basis, and have, at times, required her to need the assistance of a wheelchair.

4. Naturally, Plaintiff's vehicle is registered as a handicapped vehicle with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation and consequently, bears a handicapped license plate.

5. Because of her condition, Plaintiff requires the use of handicap parking spaces in order to provide her with sufficient space for access to and from her motor vehicle.

6. Plaintiff has patronized Defendant's facilities in the past, and will do so in the future.

7. As set forth below, Plaintiff was denied full access to Defendant's facility due to its non-compliance with the ADA. As set forth below, Defendant has failed to comply with the ADA's regulations regarding handicap parking. As such, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated the ADA and its implementing regulations.

8. Unless Defendant corrects the access barriers detailed herein, Plaintiff will be denied safe and full access to Defendant's facilities.

9. The ADA permits private individuals, such as Plaintiff, to bring suit in federal court so as to compel compliance with the ADA.

10. Accordingly, and on behalf of a class of similarly situated individuals, Plaintiff seeks: (i) a declaration that Defendant's facility violates federal law as described; and (ii) an injunction requiring Defendant to remove the identified access barriers so that Defendant's facility is fully accessible to, and independently usable by, physically-impaired individuals such as Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent.

11. Plaintiff also requests that once Defendant is fully in compliance with the requirements of the ADA, the Court retain jurisdiction for a period of time to be determined to

ensure that Defendant has adopted and is following an institutional policy that will, in fact, cause Defendant to remain in compliance with the law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over the ADA claims asserted herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 42 U.S.C. § 12188.

13. Plaintiff's claims asserted herein arose in this judicial district and Defendant does substantial business in this judicial district.

14. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred.

PARTIES

15. Plaintiff Elizabeth Wells ("Plaintiff" or "Wells") is and, at all times relevant hereto, was a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Plaintiff Wells is and, at all times relevant hereto, has been a legally handicapped individual, and is therefore a member of a protected class under the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2) and the regulations implementing the ADA set forth at 28 CFR §§ 36.101 *et seq.*

16. Defendant RAYMOURS FURNITURE COMPANY, INC. d/b/a RAYMOURS FURNITURE ("Raymours" or "Defendant") is a furniture seller with its principal place of business in Liverpool, New York. Upon information and belief, Defendant owns and operates more than one hundred stores throughout the northeastern United States.

17. Defendant is a public accommodation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7)(F).

TITLE III OF THE ADA

18. On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the ADA, a

comprehensive civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability.

19. The ADA broadly protects the rights of individuals with disabilities with respect to employment, access to State and local government services, places of public accommodation, transportation, and other important areas of American life.

20. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination in the activities of places of public accommodation and requires places of public accommodation to comply with ADA standards and to be readily accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12181-89.

21. On July 26, 1991, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) issued rules implementing Title III of the ADA, which are codified at 28 CFR Part 36.¹

22. Appendix A of the 1991 Title III regulations (republished as Appendix D to 28 CFR part 36) contains the ADA standards for Accessible Design (“1991 Standards”), which were based upon the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (“1991 ADAAG”) published by the Access Board on the same date.²

23. The ADA requires removal of existing architectural barriers in facilities existing before January 26, 1992 where such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181(9), 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and 28 CFR 36.304(a).

¹ The DOJ is the administrative agency charged by Congress with implementing the requirements of the ADA.

² The Access Board was established by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. 29 U.S.C. § 792. The passage of the ADA expanded the Access Board’s responsibilities. The ADA requires the Access Board to “issue minimum guidelines . . . to ensure that buildings, facilities, rail passenger cars, and vehicles are accessible, in terms of architecture and design, transportation, and communication, to individuals with disabilities.” 42 U.S.C. § 12204. The ADA requires the DOJ to issue regulations that include enforceable accessibility standards applicable to facilities subject to Title III that are consistent with the “minimum guidelines” issued by the Access Board, 42 U.S.C. § 12134(c), 12186(c).

24. Facilities newly built or altered after January 26, 1993 must be readily accessible and usable by disabled individuals, including individuals who use wheelchairs. 28 CFR 36.401 and 28 CFR 36.402.

25. The DOJ revised the 1991 ADAAG when it issued The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (“2010 Standards”), which were published on September 15, 2010.

26. Notably, many of the requirements with respect to parking remained the same in the 2010 Standards.

27. As set forth below, Defendant has failed to comply with those requirements.

VIOLATIONS AT ISSUE

28. Defendant owns, operates, and/or leases a place of public accommodation.

29. Defendant’s facilities are not fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities.

30. On or around October 2, 2016 and October 9, 2016, Plaintiff Wells visited the Defendant’s facility located at 427 Street Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966.

31. The Defendant’s facility is within Plaintiff’s regular area of travel. She has patronized this location in the past and intends to do so again in the future.

32. During her October 2016 visits, Plaintiff, who was using a physician-prescribed cane at the time, experienced difficulty and unnecessary risk due to the existence of architectural barriers that impeded her access to, and ability to use, Defendant’s facility.

33. Specifically, as evidenced by the image below, no parking spaces were designated “van accessible,” as required by the ADA.



34. Section 208.2.4 of the 2010 Standards requires “at least one” van accessible designate parking space for every six accessible parking spaces a facility maintains.

35. Additionally, the curb ramp located at the end of the handicapped access aisle contains a running slope in excess of 1:12, in violation of Section 405.2 of the 2010 Standards.

36. Upon information and belief, Defendant has centralized policies regarding the management and operation of its facility, and those policies are inadequate to ensure compliance with the ADA, as is demonstrated by the fact that Defendant’s facility remains non-compliant.

37. Plaintiff will continue to attempt to access Defendant’s facility in the future.

However, so long as Defendant's facility continues to violate the ADA, Plaintiff will be unable to access it independently and will be, thereby, denied full access to Defendant's facility.

38. Plaintiff requests periodic monitoring to confirm that the public accommodation is brought into compliance and remains in compliance.

39. Without injunctive relief, Plaintiff will continue to be unable to independently use Defendant's facility.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

40. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of herself and all individuals with disabilities who have attempted to access, or will attempt to access Defendant's facilities (the "Class").

41. Upon information and belief, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all individual members in one action would be impracticable. The disposition of the individual claims of the respective Class members through this class action will benefit both the parties and this Court.

42. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class. The claims of the Plaintiff and members of the Class are based on the same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful conduct.

43. Common Questions of Fact and Law: There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of fact and law affecting members of the Class in that they all have been and/or are being denied their civil rights to full and equal access to, and use and enjoyment of, Defendant's facilities and/or services due to Defendant's failure to make its facilities fully accessible and independently usable as above described.

44. The questions of fact and law common to the class include but are not limited to

the following:

- a. Whether Defendant is a “public accommodation” under the ADA;
- b. Whether Defendant’s conduct in failing to make its facility fully accessible and independently usable as described above violated the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*; and
- c. Whether Plaintiff and members of the class are entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief.

45. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the class because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the Class. Plaintiff will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect the interests of the members of the class and have no interests antagonistic to the members of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation.

46. Class certification is appropriate pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, making appropriate both declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to Plaintiff and the Class as a whole.

COUNT I
VIOLATION OF THE ADA

47. The allegations contained in the previous paragraphs are incorporated by reference.

48. Defendant’s facility was required to be altered, designed, or constructed so that it is readily accessible and usable by disabled individuals. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).

49. The architectural barriers described above demonstrate that Defendant’s facility was not altered, designed, or constructed in a manner that causes it to be readily accessible to and

usable by individuals with disabilities, including Plaintiff and the class she seeks to represent.

50. The architectural barriers described above demonstrate that Defendant has failed to remove barriers, as required by 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

51. Defendant's facility is required to comply with the Department of Justice's 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, or in some cases the 1991 Standards 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1); 28 C.F.R. § 36.406; 28 C.F.R., pt. 36, app. A.

52. Defendant is required to provide individuals with disabilities full and equal enjoyment of its facilities. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

53. Defendant has discriminated against Plaintiff and the Class in that it has failed to make its facility fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities in violation of the ADA, as described above.

54. Defendant's conduct is ongoing, and, given that Defendant has not complied with the ADA's requirements that public accommodations be fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities, Plaintiff invokes her statutory right to declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as costs and attorneys' fees.

55. Without the requested injunctive relief, specifically including the request that the Court retain jurisdiction of this matter for a period to be determined after the Defendant certifies that it is fully in compliance with the mandatory requirements of the ADA that are discussed above, Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA's requirements that its facility be accessible to, and independently usable, by individuals with disabilities is likely to recur.

PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the members of the Class, pray for:

A. A Declaratory Judgment that at the commencement of this action Defendant was

in violation of the specific requirements of Title III of the ADA described above;

B. A permanent injunction which directs Defendant to take all steps necessary to bring its facility into full compliance with the requirements set forth in the ADA, and its implementing regulations, and which further directs that the Court shall retain jurisdiction for a period to be determined after Defendant certifies that its facility is fully in compliance with the relevant requirements of the ADA to ensure that Defendant has adopted and is following an institutional policy that will in fact cause Defendant to remain in compliance with the law;

C. An Order certifying the Class proposed by Plaintiff, and naming Plaintiff as the class representative and appointing her counsel as class counsel;

D. Payment of costs of suit;

E. Payment of reasonable attorneys' fees; and,

F. The provision of whatever other relief the Court deems just, equitable and appropriate.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Wells hereby requests a jury on all issues so triable.

Date: December 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
KALIKHMAN & RAYZ, LLC



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